

Aiming for excellence

Tulsa's Edison Eagles JROTC rifle team goes high tech



Cadet Jennifer Schrum draws an electronic bead on a target across the classroom.

Courtesy of Thomas Edison High School JROTC


Thanks to a \$7674.00 contribution from the National Rifle Association, the Screaming Eagles Air Rifle Marksmanship Team from Thomas Edison High School in Tulsa, Okla., was able to acquire a Finnish electronic marksmanship training system, called the NOPTEL ST-2000 Sport. This system consists of a special reflective target, an optical sensor, an RS (electronics) box and cable. The optical transmitter/receiver fits onto the barrel of the shooter's own gun. When connected to a computer, the coach is able to "see" what the shooter sees. This, in turn, enables the coach to correct for hold, aim, trigger control, and follow-through. The sensor sends a signal to the computer, which shows up as a colored dot on a simulated target. Several seconds before, during, and after the trigger is pulled, the colored dot traces a pattern on the computer monitor, which corresponds to the shooters' movement and breathing. A printout and "save" capability gives the coach the ability to monitor the progress of each shooter, or use it for later analysis. Since up to eight devices can be connected to one computer, eight shooters can be trained at once. The NOPTEL device does not require the firing of an actual pellet, so the training can be conducted safely, practically anywhere.



JROTC Cadet Kyle Birdwell reviews his shot group on the NOPTEL monitor after squeezing off a few rounds with one of the battalion's new FWP-P70 Junior precision air rifles.

"When I first saw this device, I compared it with similar devices, and decided that, based on price and capabilities, the NOPTEL came out a winner," said retired Maj. Garnett Arnold, Edison's Senior Army Instructor. "We are building a precision and sporter marksmanship team that we hope will compete at the regional and national level." Another grant from the National Rifle Association provided FWP-P70 Junior Precision air rifles, shooting coats, gloves, scopes, mats, and other equipment. This has given the Edison Eagles opportunities to expand their marksmanship program, from sporter, to precision. "The precision rifles are heavier, and are a lot more expensive," Arnold said, "but the NOPTEL enables us to save a lot of wear and tear on them because we can use the Daisy 853's for live-fire training, and dry-fire

the precision rifles with the NOPTEL." Retired Master Sgt. George Tabor, the rifle team coach, is also excited about this technology and is looking forward to another grant this year to expand the current system so that four to eight marksman at a time can use the system.

"Another great feature of the NOPTEL is its portability, and flexibility," Arnold said. "It only takes a few seconds to move the transmitter from one rifle to another and we can shoot at targets as little as nine feet away." Another advantage of the NOPTEL is its accuracy. At 10 meters, 50 percent of the shots will hit within 0.2 mm of the actual aim point, and 90 percent of the shots will hit within 0.3 mm of the actual aim point. This makes the NOPTEL nearly accurate enough to shoot a match without pellets. 


Santa Barbara cadets meet Secretary of the Army



Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White (second from left) was invited to speak at the Santa Barbara Channel City Club where he met these UCSB Army ROTC cadets.

Story and photo courtesy of University of California-Santa Barbara ROTC

Several University of California-Santa Barbara ROTC cadets and cadre were given the honor to meet with the Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White and listen to a speech he made on Feb. 22. The Secretary and ROTC members were guests of the Santa Barbara Channel City Club, comprised primarily of World War II veterans. White covered numerous topics ranging from his involvement with the Enron corporation to the war on terrorism. A major theme of the Secretary's oration was the current transformation of the Army and its place in the future of

warfare. This was a topic of great interest to the cadets since they will soon become leaders within this new "lighter and mightier" force structure. White also discussed his initiative ensuring every soldier's Basic Allowance for Housing will be adequate to cover all of his or her living expenses. He further promised to enact the changes by 2005. Following White's remarks, some UCSB cadets had their picture taken with the Secretary. Impressed by the pride and professionalism displayed by the cadets, he awarded a Secretary of the Army Coin of Excellence to the battalion's cadet commander, Cadet Karyna Velasquez. 

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

As we finish the school year at the 4th Region's 78 university battalions and 425 high school JROTC programs, I want to congratulate those who are about to graduate and move on to the next exciting phase of their lives. For the high school seniors and LET-4s, I commend you for your eager commitment to JROTC. I hope we have helped you develop those essential leadership skills and the companion self-confidence to successfully embark on your adult life. To the next 800+ second lieutenants that will be commissioned from 4th Region schools between now and September, I wish you the best of luck and Godspeed in what will unfold as a truly great adventure over the next several years. Your hard work, devotion and sense of purpose are about to be rewarded with those coveted gold bars. Wear them proudly!

And to the many hundreds of JROTC and ROTC cadre on our campuses, a heartfelt thanks for your magnificent work in nurturing these young men and women who represent our nation's best.



Col. Daniel S. Challis

Your patient mentoring, teaching and encouragement have truly made a huge impact.

For those underclassmen who have more academic work and training to accomplish in the coming years to achieve your goals and dreams, we at 4th Region simply point out the soon-to-graduate seniors as the best example of what your future holds if you sustain your commitment to the values, dedication and teamwork that characterize ROTC. For those who have a JROTC summer camp or National Advanced Leadership Camp, Leaders' Training Course or Airborne School in your plans this summer, train hard and have fun!

Ruck up & move out!

NCO NOTES

As we rapidly approach the end of another school year, I'm given pause to reflect on the many wonderful people I've met and schools I've visited. I'm always so impressed by our young cadets who participate in our JROTC programs across the Region. During the past year I had the opportunity visit many of our JROTC programs and also had the good fortune to go to the National Drill Competition in Daytona Beach, Fla. I can honestly say that I went to the drill competition not really knowing what to expect, but was quickly awed by the precision drill that I observed. The level of execution was truly unbelievable.

Let me share something with you that happened to me on the last morning of the competition. I was on my way to the arena and stopped at a convenience store for a cup of coffee, the person working in the store commented on the large numbers of young people in town. I informed him they were probably JROTC cadets in town for a national-level drill competition.

He then began to provide me with his unsolicited observations on how he thought they had conducted themselves during their



Command Sgt. Maj. Lewis Ferguson stay in town. What he said didn't surprise me, but may have surprised someone unfamiliar with our JROTC cadets. He said he couldn't believe how polite, and courteous they were. He said their behavior was a stark contrast to that of the college students who had just been there for spring break.

If my observations or the observations of that gentleman in Daytona Beach are any indication, then JROTC is doing exactly what it's supposed to: build better citizens. All of the qualities learned and demonstrated while participating in JROTC will continue to pay dividends. They are not just important to your success as cadets but as productive members of society. Thanks to everyone for your commitment and dedication.

NMSU Army ROTC drill team goes to Mardi Gras

By Cadet Marjorie Heeter
New Mexico State University

The New Mexico State University (NMSU) Army ROTC drill team participated in the Tulane Navy ROTC Mardi Gras Invitational drill meet, held Feb. 8 in New Orleans. This was NMSU's first appearance at the meet, which normally attracts teams from the service academies and about 50 college and university ROTC programs.

This was the first competition for the newly-reestablished drill team from New Mexico State. The team's commander, Cadet Kimberly Jackson, and Cadets Marjorie Heeter, Lori Kirkland, Shauna Manuelito and Katrina Yazzie, represented the NMSU Army ROTC program at the meet. Alternates included Cadets Stephanie Peña and Melissa Najera.

"The team did outstanding for their first meet," said Lt.



Cadet Marjorie Heeter

The New Mexico State University Drill team joined 50 other teams at Mardi Gras.

Col. Francis V. Sherman, Jr., NMSU Professor of Military Science, who accompanied the drill team to Mardi Gras. The NMSU team competed in the color-guard portion of the meet;

it tied for 18th place out of 48 teams. A North Georgia team won the event.

After the competition, the team and cadre members went wild - er - enjoyed the sights of New Orleans, experiencing some of the traditional parades and festivals of Mardi Gras.

"We had a great time on a fun trip," said Jackson. "Now we know what to expect, and we will do better next time." The team continues to practice and work hard, preparing to compete in a drill competition at the Air Force Academy in April.

The drill team raised travel funds by selling baked goods and washing cars. Additionally, the team received funds from the NMSU ROTC Alumni Association, Black Programs, Chicano Programs, America Indian Programs and the College of Arts and Sciences.

COMTek Contract replaces MPRI

Communication Technologies, Inc. (COMTek) was awarded a \$142 million five-year contract, recently held by MPRI, to provide ROTC training support for more than 220 colleges and universities nationwide.

The contract took effect April 1, following a short transition between the two companies. The 4th Region manager for COMTek, retired Col. Ray Rasmussen, and his deputy manager, retired Lt. Col. Jim Mosebach, will work with the region schools to activate contracts at the ROTC battalion level. As of the transition date, COMTek had 104 contracted employees serving mainly as assistant Professors of Military Science (APMS) at many of 4th Region's schools.

COMTek is an information systems technology, telecommunications and training services provider headquartered in Chantilly, Va. It places retired or recently-separated Reserve and National Guard Army officers and NCOs in ROTC units at universities and colleges across the United States. Contracted positions include APMS, enlisted instructors, administrative specialists and logistics specialists.

-PAO

Correction:



In our last issue, we incorrectly identified the Ranger Challenge Road March team in this cover photo. They are, in fact, the winning team from North Dakota State University.

Yukon do it!

Fairbanks cadet
challenges arctic

By Jamie Dvorak
University of Alaska-Fairbanks



Cadet Sean McPeck of the University of Alaska-Fairbanks finished the Susitna 100 cross-country arctic race as the first-place runner. He placed 7th overall in a field of 44 competitors and was the first runner ever to beat every bicyclist.


Maj. John F. Woyte

Imagine a race in the most brutal environment an Alaskan winter can summon and then imagine the race lasting 100 miles. Sean McPeck, a University of Alaska-Fairbanks Army ROTC cadet and Alaska Army National Guardsman, tackled exactly that in the Susitna 100 this year. Growing up in the Knik Valley, McPeck is accustomed to rough conditions. McPeck's father homesteaded land outside Palmer, Alaska, and expected Sean to be self-reliant and hard working. Without the modern luxuries of running water and electricity, going through hard times wasn't occasional, but a daily way of life. Along with his upbringing, McPeck's active duty military training as an Army Ranger in the 3rd Ranger Battalion and his five-hour training runs in Fairbanks helped in his preparation for this event. The race is an ultimate endurance event that has even been named "Alaska's toughest human-powered ultra marathon." McPeck has been training for the last five months to prepare for the Susitna 100.

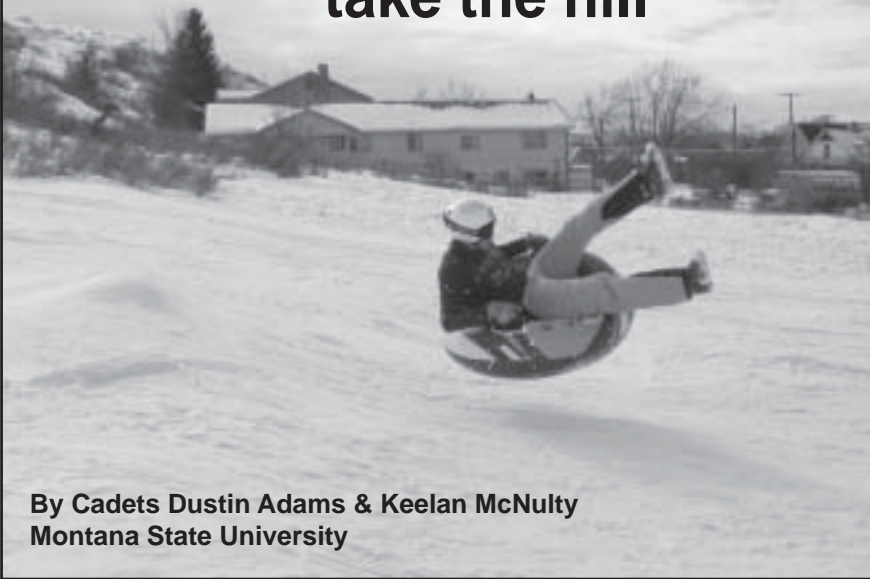
When asked whether or not he would be sleeping, McPeck replied that his "goal was to not sleep, as long as his body could hold up." Although no fatal injuries have occurred in the five-year history of the Susitna 100, competitors have and will continue to suffer frostbite and hypothermia, the two most common injuries of this sport. This fact alone justifies a checklist of required survival equipment that includes a minimum amount of food and a pot capable of melting snow and a minus-20 degree sleeping bag, among other items. McPeck, along with the other participants, also used a sled because, when you're relying on foot-power, hauling 20 pounds on your back over 100 miles of rotten, "punchy" snow is extremely difficult.

Apart from contending with sub-zero temperatures, McPeck and 50-plus other athletes dealt with barely-distinguishable terrain to navigate through a trail only "marked" by four-foot wide snow machine trails running for miles across lakes and rivers and through breaks in the tree line. Although the trek was unbelievably taxing on all competitors both mentally and physically, the trails would be impossible without these tracks. The race began at Big Lake Lodge in Wasilla, Alaska, traveled 100 miles and made a "lollipop," ending where it began.

There are 14 checkpoints along the trail and a time limit of 48 hours. Only 16 of 63 competitors who started the race last year completed the entire course. In fact, 22 competitors were flown out from various checkpoints. Temperatures ranged from 40 degrees Fahrenheit to 0 degrees Fahrenheit and possibly lower under mostly clear skies. Not only did McPeck compete against people from all over the United States, competitors came from all over the world this year, including Germany and Canada. Representing UAF's Army ROTC program, McPeck was ready to compete with some of the best endurance athletes in the world, but said that he "just wanted to finish healthy and is excited about the challenge of such a tough and prestigious event."

In the end, his overall time of 28 hours and 55 minutes put him in seventh place against 44 other competitors in the Susitna 100. Remarkably, he was the first runner ever to beat every single contestant who ran the race on a trail bike and he also took first place among the foot racers. Only the ski-mounted racers placed ahead of him, taking full advantage of a foot of new snow. 


Montana State cadets take the hill



By Cadets Dustin Adams & Keelan McNulty
Montana State University

As the sun rose on Feb. 6, the cadets of Montana State University were greeted with two inches of "freshy" (Montanan for new snowfall) as they prepared for their second annual Fun-X. But the snow fit their plans nicely, so the battalion staff and MS-III cadets loaded vehicles full of equipment for a day of excitement. The Fun-X is a barbecue and sledding festival that takes place at Pete's Hill, a local attraction on the eastern fringe of Bozeman, Mont. The Fun-X is designed as a morale booster for cadets to kick off the spring semester and to promote bonding within the Bobcat Battalion. Nearly half the battalion and even a couple of cadre members took to the hill.

In the Big Sky State, folks like to take sledding to an extreme, as they do with many winter sports, so they brought along their Zodiac. Although the Zodiac is an eight-man river raft, it adapts very well to the snow. The first few trial runs with the Zodiac consisted of testing such factors as speed, entering the raft and staying in the raft. Once practice runs were complete and a crowd formed, they were ready to "do some damage" (in more ways than one). With safety helmets on and snow boots laced tight, the Bobcats perfected their bobsled-type entry and hurled down the mountain. It was a battle to find a seat in the raft, but once they were situated, the raft propelled itself over bumps and into the air. Besides the raft, they had every type of sled imaginable, from a traditional saucer to inner-tubes and even an old-school toboggan. Cadets were bruised and battered, but overall the exercise was safe and successful and everyone had a great time.

As the temperature rose to around 30 degrees they fired up their grills and brought out hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and pop. The beautiful weather made everyone think it was a summer BBQ; however, the laughing, screaming, and hollering from the sled hill reminded them of the snowy season. By the end the Bobcats even drew a large crowd from the general public to observe these professional, yet crazy, ROTC sledders. The Bobcats invite anyone in the 4th Region ROTC Battalions, when they come to Bozeman, to stop by and be sure to bring your sleds. 

Maverick cadets take the Scouts out!

By Stephen Babcock,
Minn. State University - Mankato ROTC



Photos by Lt. Col. Arthur Sepeta
Minn. State University - Mankato ROTC



Cadet Dan Pitchford encourages a young scout about to take a toss at the tomahawk station.

What do Minnesotans do in the middle of winter when the wind chill is near zero and there is almost a foot of snow on the ground? Well, if you are a Boy Scout, you go outdoors. If you're in the Maverick battalion at Minnesota State University - Mankato, you lead from the front.

Equipped with extreme cold-weather gear, Army-issued snowshoes, a borrowed HUMVEE and plenty of hot chocolate, the Maverick Cadets from Gustavus Adolphus and Bethany Lutheran were up to the task. Making it even easier - two of the cadets, Stephen Babcock and Pat Tatro, were Eagle Scouts themselves and their former patrols were participating.

On Jan. 19, Mankato ROTC members assisted more than 350 Boy Scouts from southern Minnesota with their annual Klondike Derby. Cadet involvement in this function served many purposes and had many benefits. First, it was an excellent training opportunity for the cadets to develop their leadership skills through experience and diversity. There was also the cold weather aspect, ever-present in a good Minnesota winter, which provided further experience and training.

Each scout patrol of six to 12 young men traveled to different stations while pulling a sled filled with sup-



Even in the freezing forest, physical training is a regular part of a Boy Scout's many challenges.



Cadet Christopher Donlin issues instructions for the two-man saw competition.

plies through deep snow, across a frozen lake and up and down steep hills. The event was reminiscent of the Field Leadership Reaction Course from Advanced Camp.

Scouts were confronted by assorted challenges. Some stations included knot tying, first aid, land navigation, and several other activities typical of the Boy Scouts. The cadets in charge of the two-man saw and

Above: Excitement fills the chilly Minnesota air as the Boy Scouts complete a half-mile run pulling their home-made sleds across a frozen lake.



Cadets Natalie Sperling and Bobbie Johnson make notes while evaluating the first-aid station.

three-legged snowshoe stations evaluated physical fitness, teamwork and leadership. At the first-aid station, cadets specially selected for their real-world experiences as healthcare professionals or students measured scout knowledge of lifesaving skills when confronted with a snowmobile accident. The tomahawk competition - always a scout favorite - culminated with scouts throwing razor-sharp tomahawks at wood stumps under the watchful eyes of cadets. A miss resulted in all patrol members doing push-ups. Exhibiting true leadership, cadets joined the scouts when doing the push-ups (remember, lots of snow!).

Scouts, leaders and parents were all very enthusiastic about ROTC cadet participation. When the cadets left for the day, a hearty Scout roar of thanks was heard across the valley.



Hood hosts Rudder's Rangers



Cadets from Texas A&M University step off a CH-47D Chinook into a world of firefights, patrols and challenges with the Rudder's Ranger Company.

**By Capt. John Woodward
Texas A&M University**
As night falls on Fort Hood's St. Elijah Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training site, three platoons of Rudder's Ranger Company cadets move into assault positions. Soon the cadets will move forward to secure the city from the aggressors hidden throughout the site.

The MOUT operation is part of an annual semester break, field training exercise (FTX) led by the Rudder's Ranger Company, a special unit of the ROTC program at Texas A&M University. The FTX, normally held at Fort Hood the week before school resumes for the spring semester, generally features several days of squad and platoon level situational training exercises (STX lanes), survival training and field craft classes, culminating in a company raid during the last night of the operation. In recent years MOUT training was modeled after central European towns, has been a feature of the FTX and has quickly become one of the key experiences of the week for the Rangers.

The Rangers, all of whom are undergraduate students at Texas A&M and en-



A Ranger team carefully seeks targets through an open window at the St. Elijah Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training site on Fort Hood, Texas.


rolled in the Army ROTC program, train throughout the fall semester in order to prepare for this FTX. The Rangers meet every Monday night and Wednesday afternoon during the semester for classes and practical labs on topics that include writing and issuing an OPORD, battle drills, how to call for indirect fire, patrol base activities and how to conduct assault, raid, ambush and reconnaissance missions. In addition to

normal ROTC physical training, Rangers also meet for supplementary physical training every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday morning including weekly ruck marches. The ruck marches total a distance of 12 miles by the completion of the semester. Classes and physical training are led by advanced ROTC cadets and advised by Army ROTC cadre.

Rudder's Ranger Company was origi-



Leaving a building can be just as dangerous as entering one, so this cadet peers cautiously outside before losing his cover.

nally formed as a preparation for cadets going to U.S. Army Ranger School at Fort Benning, Ga., between their junior and seniors years. When the program discontinued in the early 1990s, Rudder's Rangers focused their training on advanced infantry training to underclass cadets in preparation for National Advanced Leadership Camp. 


Northern Iowa Cadets become student Senators

**By Cadet Melanie Meyer
University of Northern Iowa**
The University of Northern Iowa Student Government, representing more than 13,000 students at UNI, recently added three newly-elected ROTC cadets to their ranks. Cadet Eric Chamberlain, a junior with a Physics major, David Greenley, a sophomore whose major is Political Science and Dustin Kay, a junior majoring in Leisure Services, were chosen to represent students living off campus. The Northern Iowa Student Government is responsible for the distribution of more than \$215,000 each year in student activity fees, encouraging student participation in elections and legislative issues and



Not yet officers, but already in office as student senators, are (left to right) Cadets Eric Chamberlain, David Greenley and Dustin Kay.

representing UNI students to the Iowa Board of Regents, the state and the communities of Cedar Falls and Waterloo.
"I have been intrigued with politics since coming to UNI," said Chamberlain. "I would like to use this experience as an education in the matter of student politics and the processes that take place to accomplish what needs to be done."
All three cadets felt the leadership training they acquired through ROTC would help them represent their constituents while on the NISG board.
"I wanted to represent The UNI population," Greenley said. "My ROTC training has taught me that I have the leadership ability to make a difference."

Upon learning that Military Science had not been represented for more than two years, Kay decided it was about time somebody took the initiative to support ROTC. He said he'd like to see more funding for programs like ROTC, physics and math club - programs that don't receive much publicity. Chamberlain agreed.
"We have one of the best ROTC programs in the nation and there are so many other great programs on campus that need to be recognized by the University and outside sources."
With so many common goals for the future, all three cadets came to the same conclusion. "We are out there to make a difference." 

Prairie View A&M Pre-nursing Students Visit BAMC

By Capt. Rodney Penny and Capt. Sheri Burton

The Prairie View A&M University Panther Battalion, ROTC Department, treated some pre-nursing students to a tour of Brooke Army Medical Center and Fort Sam Houston, Texas on Jan. 25. The trip was organized under the direction of Capt. Rodney Penny (the Battalion Recruiting Operations Officer), Dr. Randy Abrams (a faculty member from the Prairie View College of Nursing) and Capt. Sheri Burton (the 5th Brigade, 4th Region (ROTC) Nurse Counselor and Recruiter). Abrams is also a nurse and holds the rank of major in the U.S. Army Reserves.

The purpose of the trip was to expose pre-nursing students at Prairie View A&M to Army medicine, as well as some of the roles and duties of Army nurses. Many of the students that attended the tour were very impressed by what they learned. Most of the students were unaware of the many benefits available in the Army Nurse Corps, and the opportunities for specialized nursing through advanced education and training.

The tour began at the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Museum on Fort Sam Houston. The students viewed a film about the history of the Army Medical Department and the AMEDD Center and School, and concluded with a self-guided tour of the museum. The Fort Sam Houston Officer's Club provided a buffet-style lunch. After lunch, the students were transported to BAMC for a tour of the hospital.

Hospital volunteers served as the tour guides. Various outpatient sections, as well as inpatient treatment areas, were visited during

the tour. The students were able to observe the typical daily inpatient unit or "ward" activities, as well as viewing Army nurses "in action." They were also able to see the various types of equipment used in Army health care facilities.

Following the tour, the students assembled in the Critical Care Course classroom for the Army Nurse Corps panel discussion. Four field-grade Army nurses talked about their experiences in the Army Nurse Corps. The members of the panel included Lt. Col. Thomas Chapman, Head Nurse of the Hematology/Oncology Unit; Lt. Col. Sheila Mitchell, Head Nurse of the Operating Room; Maj. Cathy Martin, a Critical Care Course Instructor; and Maj. Gorrell-Goode, also a Critical Care Course instructor. They talked about current and past assignments, educational and job opportunities, deployment issues, travel and the lifestyles of a military family. After viewing the 100th anniversary of the Army Nurse Corps video, the panel fielded questions from the students. Lt. Col. Alida Ramos, Chief of Nursing Education, served as the facilitator for the BAMC events.

Feedback from the tour was very favorable, and plans for the next trip are already in the works. Comments ranged from "I didn't know the Army was so medically advanced" to "I had never even considered Army Nursing, but now it is certainly an option for me."

There are tremendous opportunities within the Army health care professions. ROTC scholarships (2, 3 and 4 years) are available to qualified applicants. The Army has ROTC Partnership Programs with more than 40 colleges around the United States that were chosen based on their "Excellence in Nursing."



Capt. Sheri Burton

Prairie View Pre-Nursing students enjoy the BAMC Hospital Tour, while PVAMU Recruiting Operations Officer, Capt. Rodney Penny, keeps them on track.

This trip served to kick off Prairie View's new Partnership in Nursing Education (PNE) contract, which is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2002. With such a critical nurse shortage in the civilian community, as well as in the military, events such as this help pre-nursing students see the many options available to them as future nurses. It also showed them that the Army Nurse Corps can certainly "stack up" to, and often exceeds, what nurses can find in civilian hospitals.

4th Region NCO goes All-American



Sgt. Gloria L. Enriquez, a team chief in 4th Region's Personnel and Administration Division, received her U.S. citizenship March 1 at the Immigration and Naturalization Service office in Seattle. Several coworkers also attended the ceremony with her, her husband and young daughter, celebrating her new status as an American. Originally from Colombia, Enriquez moved to New York City in 1996 to be closer to her family, who had previously located there.

A year later, Enriquez decided to enlist in the U.S. Army to channel herself into a more productive lifestyle. "I wanted to be around good people," she said. "I also wanted to make a life of my own." Since that time, she has been stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash., where she now provides personnel management services for 1st and 2nd Brigades.

-PAO

Cameron cadets earn American citizenship

By Lt. Col. Robert M. Visbal
PMS, Cameron University

Many Americans who were born in this country don't give a second thought about their citizenship or how it came to be, but two ROTC cadets at Cameron University do not take their citizenship for granted.

The first, Cadet Natacha Cherisier-Whetstone, is a MS-III who is a Masters student in Business Administration. She recently announced that, while visiting her family in Kentucky she was sworn in as a United States citizen. Cherisier-Whetstone was born on May 3, 1973, in Port Au Prince, Haiti. Her father came to the U.S. and eventually became an American citizen, then sent for her to come live with him when she was 14. She later married a soldier and traveled overseas and in the U.S., where she eventually completed her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and French at Columbia University in South Carolina in 1997. She also decided to become an Army officer, but needed to be a U.S. citizen first. In 1998, she joined the Army and, in July 2000, she left active duty to join ROTC.

The second cadet is MS-IV Abdul Wurie. On Feb. 22, Wurie was sworn in as a citizen of the United States at Federal Court in Oklahoma City, literally in the shadow of where the Edward Murrah Federal Building once stood and is now the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial. His oath was the culmination of many years of hard work, determination and effort that marked the end of a journey that began over 30 years ago in West Africa. A senior majoring in Communications Information Systems, he was born on June 25, 1971, in Freeport, Sierra Leone. Living in England, France, and then finally coming to America in 1985, he settled with his family in suburban Virginia. There he graduated from TC Williams High School (featured in the movie "Remember the Titans") in 1990. After working a couple years, he joined the U.S. Army as a field artillery soldier in 1993, serving in a variety of positions and seeing duty in Germany, Korea, Saudi Arabia and even Croatia.

While on leave in 1998, he went home to visit his father, who was the Minister of Education and, while there, a group of rebels known as the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) attempted a coup in the capital city of Freeport. Wurie had to literally take up arms to defend his family. After the coup was successfully put down, he and other foreign nationals were evacuated by a Nigerian force under United Nations control and then flown back to the U.S.

In 1997, while stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, Wurie decided he wanted to become a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army and started the process for citizenship. In August 2000 he came to Cameron seeking to participate in the ROTC program. He was



accepted into the program on a conditional basis while his citizenship application was processed. There were some obstacles, though, like a paperwork error, a PCS move to Korea and then back to Fort Sill, Okla.. But Wurie was not about to let things get in the way of his dream of being a citizen and officer. He continued to train with Cameron's cadets and doggedly pursued his application with the Department of Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) until he finally received his letter of notification to appear before the court in Oklahoma City.

Into this courtroom were packed 96 petitioners for citizenship, along with their families. They came from 30 different countries, a variety of age groups, and all walks of life. In the midst of the ceremony, following the administration of the Oath of Allegiance and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, Judge Ralph G. Thompson noted the attendance of the small contingent of ROTC cadre and cadets. Then, much to the surprise of Wurie, Thompson called him out from the group of new citizens and allowed his commanding officer to administer the Oath of Enlistment to him.

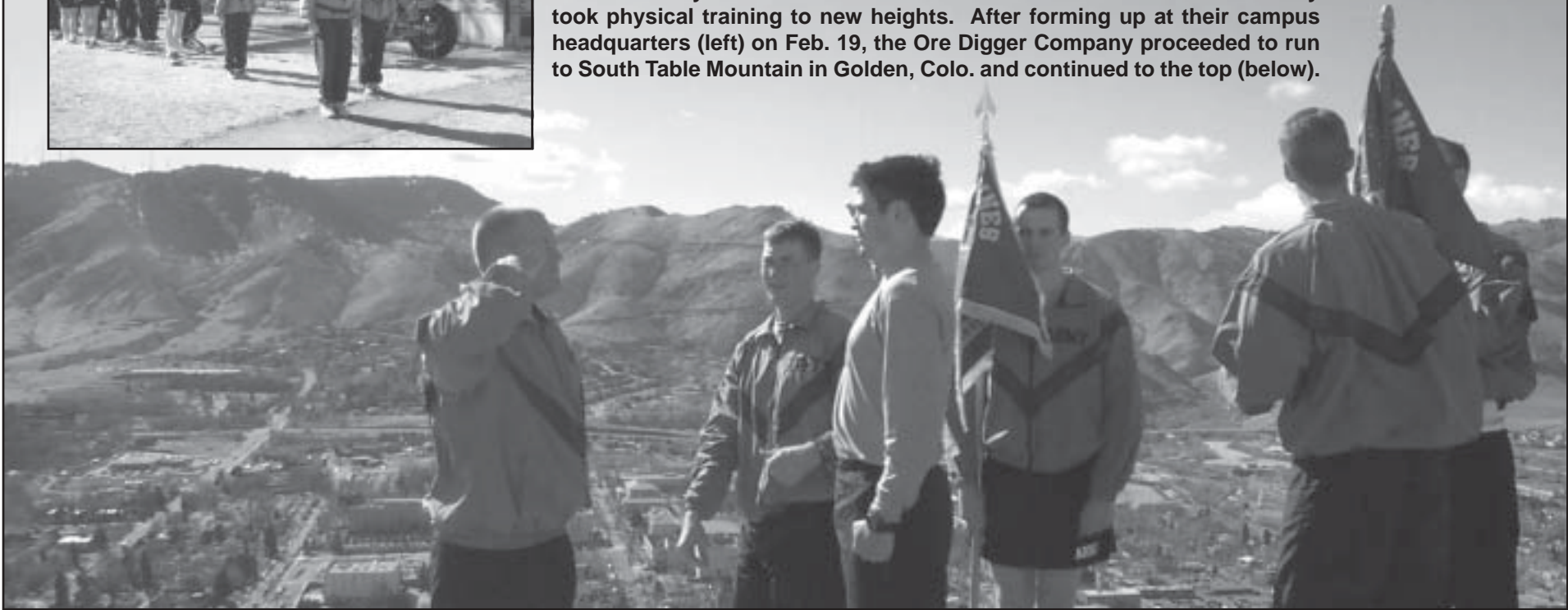
Thompson said, while this was indeed a break from precedence, he felt its importance could not be overstated and he was honored to have it as a part of the ceremony. With a thunderous round of applause from the court and his fellow citizens, Wurie was given his certificate of naturalization.

While most contracted cadets in ROTC have been enjoying an increased stipend and pay while at Advanced Camp, Wurie trained his entire MS-III year, completed Advanced Camp, and more than half of his MS-IV year without any pay or benefits, typifying selfless service. The next time you exercise one of those many rights and privileges extended to you as a native-born citizen, pause for a moment and think about those citizens who have "earned" their citizenship the hard way. Some people go to great lengths and sacrifice much just for the privilege of becoming an U.S. Army officer.



Ore Diggers take a Golden opportunity

The University of Colorado - Boulder's Golden Buffalo battalion recently took physical training to new heights. After forming up at their campus headquarters (left) on Feb. 19, the Ore Digger Company proceeded to run to South Table Mountain in Golden, Colo. and continued to the top (below).



2nd Louie

By Bob Rosenburgh



Arizona Green-to-Gold advisor given national honor

Capt. Dan N. Clark, Assistant Professor of Military Science at the University of Arizona, was recently awarded the 2002 Maj. Gen. Strom Thurmond Outstanding Junior Officer of the Year Award at the Reserve Officers Association Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C. This highly competitive award is presented annually to one Army Reserve officer to recognize exemplary accomplishments and dedicated service to the nation's defense. Clark holds a doctorate in Education from The University of Alabama and is the Fort Huachuca, Ariz., Green-to-Gold Counterpart Battalion advisor. Clark, his wife, Jennifer, and their daughter live in Tucson.

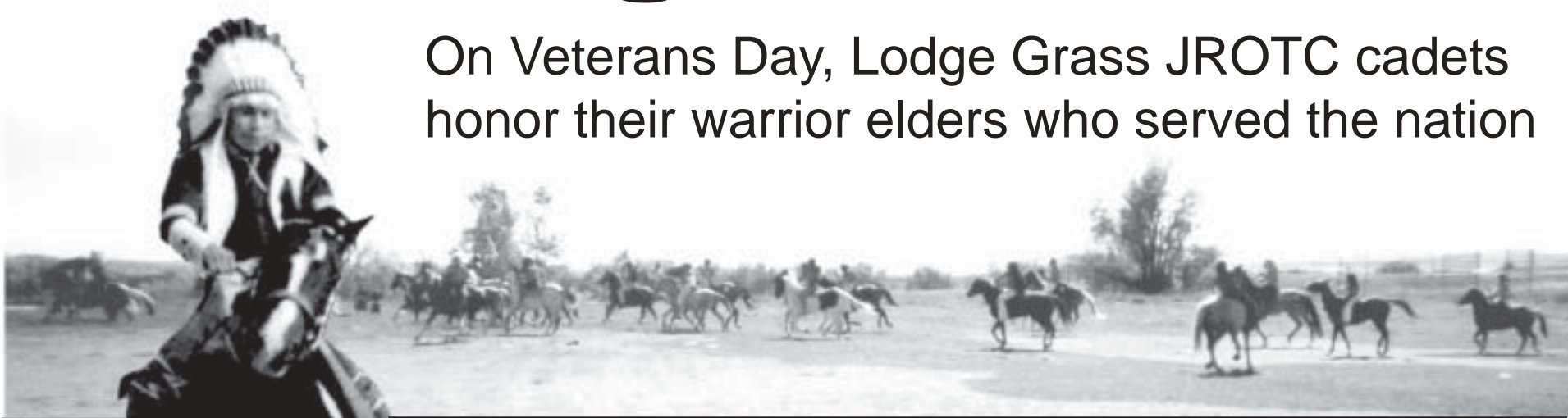


Plenty to cheer about



Sporting U.S. Army sweatshirts, cheerleaders at New Mexico State University shout their support for the school's Army ROTC Bataan Battalion on Military Appreciation Day while the announcer introduces Cadet Jason Fontenet, a member of the basketball team.

A heritage of heroes



On Veterans Day, Lodge Grass JROTC cadets honor their warrior elders who served the nation

Lodge Grass High School JROTC cadets ride bareback during a re-enactment for “Crow Day” festivities.

By Cadet Charity Old Bull
Lodge Grass High School JROTC, Mont.

Nov. 12, the Lodge Grass High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps and the school’s Bilin-gual department sponsored the second annual Veterans Day Powwow. Grand Entry, the initial event, started at 10 a.m. with the JROTC Color Guard presenting the flag. Crow dance performances by the Indian club members Candace Brien, Vania White, Heather Eastman and other Indian club members, followed the opening ceremonies.

The event specifically honored the warrior heri-tage of the Crow people who served in uniform with the United States armed forces during the last 150 years. More than 2,500 crow men and women have served in the United States military. Their stories have been re-searched and documented in a chronicle by Mrs. Eloise Pease.

On the Crow reservation, tribe members have a record of American military service dating back to the Red Cloud war of 1874. The tribe’s last great war chief was Plenty Coups, who was once a scout for Gen. George Crook. When the Indian wars ended, the Crow men and women were sent to the reservation.

Crow warriors who survive the combat of war come home to great honor. Their families often hold dances when soldiers returned from war. During the Vietnam War, non-Indian soldiers often returned home without being honored and were frequently harassed be-cause of their service. Crow families, however, hon-ored their Indian soldiers, before they went into battle and when they returned afterwards.

Veterans Day provides an opportunity to salute every service member, past and present. First known as Armistice Day, the name was officially changed in 1954 when President Eisenhower signed a bill proclaim-ing Nov. 11 as Veterans Day. He then called for Ameri-cans everywhere to rededicate themselves to the cause



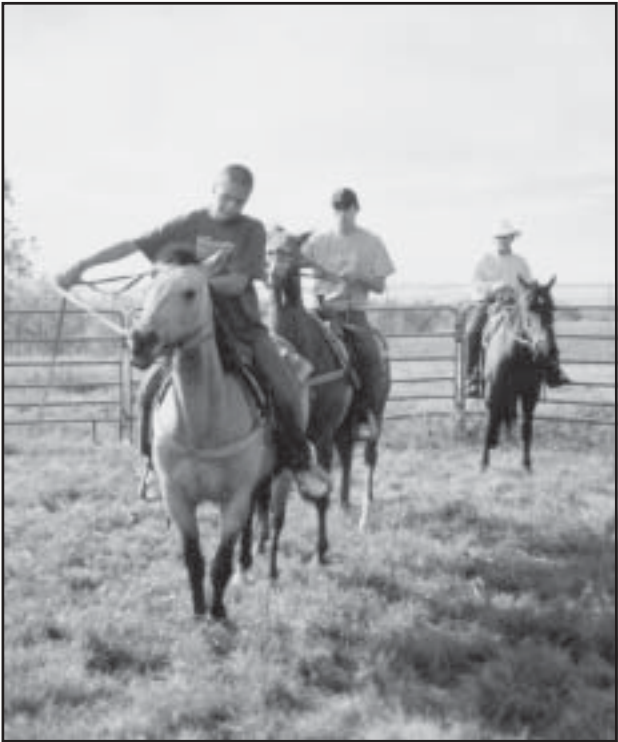
With the Lodge Grass JROTC Color Guard in the lead for the Crow Fair Community Parade, cadets wearing traditional Crow costumes follow on horseback.

of peace. Now, Veterans Day has become a day to re-member the men and women who made huge sacrifices during the nation’s wars so there would be lasting peace. It is celebrated in many ways, traditionally with parades and speeches.

Parades were originally organized so veterans who had survived the wars could march down their home-town streets with honor and pride. Veterans Day was also an occasion for veterans and politicians to address and thank those for fighting to keep peace and for win-ning the war.

After the Vietnam War, Veterans Day activities changed. There were not as many parades and ceremo-nies as there had been, because Vietnam was one of the first American wars where a large portion of the Ameri-can people were not supportive of the war efforts. Many people even protested on Veterans Day.

Much of that attitude subsided over time, but the events of Sept. 11 greatly increased America’s feelings and displays of patriotism. Although not all Americans agree on how the war in Afghanistan should be fought, the majority of Americans show as much support as pos-sible for America’s veterans.



Lodge Grass cadets are reclaiming their historic heritage by learning horsemanship and starting a mounted color guard named the “New Crow Scouts.”

No matter how the holiday is celebrated in your community, it is important to remember that many men and women gave their lives so the world would be a much safer and better place to live.

The Veterans Day Powwow went very well and the community, students and faculty joined to honor tribal Veterans at the ceremonies, followed by a feast which included buffalo meat. Along with other com-munity events, such as Crow Day and the Crow Fair Community Parade, the Lodge Grass High School JROTC cadets are an important part of their commu-nity and the nation’s future, learning and practicing lead-ership.

